(iii) Fear of militancy among staff posted in J & K.

(iv) Difficulty in getting land and building due to Article 370.

(v) Poor response from contractors and suppliers to work in J & K due to militancy.

(vi) Tough climate conditions and insurgency.

(vii) Difficult and inaccessible hilly terrain.

Reduction of monthly rent

1147. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of subscribers of MTNL in Delhi and Mumbai separately during the last three years;

(b) whether Government propose to reduce the monthly rent of telephones of MTNL in order to increase the number of subscribers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Number of working connections in MTNL during the last three years, including landline, WLL, GSM are as under:—

As on	Delhi	Mumbai
31-03-2003	2327276	2654721
31-03-2004	2172744	2661742
31-03-2005	2256800	2896683

(b) to (d) Sir, MTNL has been revising its tariff including rental from time to time for remaining competitive as well as keeping in view the market conditions.

Availability of SIM cards in Tamil Nadu

1148. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of SIM cards issued by BSNL in the State of Tamil Nadu, during the last one year, district-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is scarcity in the availability of BSNL SIM cards in the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any steps are beign taken by BSNL to ensure easy availability of SIM cards for mobile phones in the State; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The number of SIM cards issued by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited in the State of Tamil Nadu during last one year are 11,05,552. The details of SSA/district-wise list is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) and (c) Due to constraints in the network capacity of Cellular Mobile Services in Tamil Nadu Circle, issue of SIM cards has been controlled temporarily.

(d) and (e) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is augmenting the cellular network of Tami Nadu by additional capacity of 12.8 lakh lines. The installation activities with reference to expansion network is in progress and the planned capacities are likely to be realised progressively during the current financial year.

Statement

Status of SIM cards issued in Tamil Nadu (including Pondichery)

Name of the SSA	No. of SIM cards issued
Chingalpet	36779
Coimbatore	98199
Cuddalore	40098
Cavery River Delta Area	35429
Coonoor	23254
Dharmapuri	35726
Erode	43521
Karaikudi	30253
Madurai	65396

Name of the SSA	No. of SIM cards issued
Nagercoil	25275
Pondicherry	36024
Salem	74468
Thanjavur	31948
Trichy	84949
Tuticorin	19499
Tirunelveli	31600
Virudhunagar	21832
Vellore	57447
Chennai Telecom District	313855
TOTAL	1105552

Note: SIM cards were distributed in last one year in 18 Telecom Districts (SSA) covering all the 30 Revenue Districts in Tamil Nadu Circle.

Cash payment of uniform to Group 'C' and 'D' Employees

†1149. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that M.T.N.L., Delhi and Mumbai have not paid cash amount for the uniform to be provided to their Group 'C' and 'D' workers for the year 2003-04 and 2004-05;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in this regard; and

(c) by when Government would pay cash payment for the uniform to their Group 'C' and 'D' employees due for the past years and for the present year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In MTNL, Mumbai, the tender for procurement of uniforms for Group 'C' and 'D' staff for the year 2003-04 and 2004-05 is under process. In MTNL, Delhi, the matter has been referred to Joint Negotiation Committee.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.